

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4970, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Page 70, after line 14, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 111. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING RE-**  
2 **STRAINING ORDERS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

4 (1) The criminal codes of many States do not  
5 provide victims of sexual assault the opportunity to  
6 obtain permanent restraining orders if the victims  
7 fall outside of the statutory definition of domestic vi-  
8 olence.

9 (2) Approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of assaults are committed  
10 by someone known to the victim and 38 percent are  
11 committed by a friend or acquaintance. Accordingly,  
12 in the States that do not provide permanent re-  
13 straining orders, almost 40 percent of sexual assault  
14 victims are not afforded equal and permanent pro-  
15 tection.

16 (3) Protection orders provide a much needed  
17 layer of permanent protection for victims and en-  
18 courage victims to come forward to hold their abuser  
19 accountable.

1           (b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
2 the Congress that—

3           (1) each State should provide the same protec-  
4 tions to victims of sexual assault who do not fall  
5 under the statutory definition of domestic violence as  
6 the protections that are available to women and fam-  
7 ilies who suffer from domestic abuse; and

8           (2) each State should provide adequate legal  
9 remedies to ensure that victims of sex offenses are  
10 offered permanent protection from their offenders.

